

## DIVERSIONS

A dear friend was part of an elite special operations group during the Viet Nam War. One dangerous assignment they were given was to either kill or capture a communist general that was surrounded by thousands of his troops. Step # 1 in accomplishing this goal was to create a diversion. This was done with a spectacular explosion that destroyed a bridge some distance away from the true target. While the focus of the enemy was “diverted” the mission was much easier to accomplish.

It is a standard practice for magicians to use diversions. These diversions help them to fool us. While our eyes are drawn to the big flourish of that large handkerchief in his right hand, his left hand is doing something that he does not want us to see. The big flourish was a diversion!

The devil, of course, also uses diversions to keep us from establishing a right relationship with God. **THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, YET HARDLY ANYBODY GIVES THAT SUBJECT ANY REAL SERIOUS CONSIDERATION!**

Take another look at the daily paper or the evening news. Quite frequently our attention is drawn to the price of oil, the stock market, or a suicide bomber. At other times the “big news” involves an athletic contest, a fire, or a flood. Sometimes the attention of the nation is even focused on something as irrelevant as the hedonistic excesses of some famous actor or actress.

Obviously, none of these things will be of a direct benefit to you when you stand up before God in Judgement. They are diversions!

Please focus your mental and spiritual energies of these inspired words of the Apostle Peter: **“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives” (2 Pet 3:10-11)**

Jesus is coming again! No man knows the day or the hour of His return, hence He is said to “come like a thief”. In conjunction with His return will be the total destruction of our present heaven and earth. The earthly treasures that we gave our lives for will disappear with a great noise and everything associated with them will be destroyed in the same way.

**SINCE ALL THESE EARTHLY THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DESTROYED, WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHOULD YOU BE IN SEEKING TO LIVE A HOLY AND GODLY LIFE!**

Jesus said: **“No-one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)**

Paul said: **“But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:13-14)**

The inspired writer of Hebrews said: **“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith . . . ” (Heb 12:1-2)**

The One Who died and came to life again said: **“ Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev 2:10)**

WHAT DO YOU SAY?